Restrictions on Export of Rice

1902. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs has sought quantitative restrictions on export of rice;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure buffer norms before export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Export-Import (EXIM) Policy on Agricultural products, including rice is decided by the Ministry of Commerce in consultation with various Ministries/Departments concerned including the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs. Review of EXIM Policy is an on-going process and accordingly Policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary keeping the interest of domestic products consumers and industry in view. As per the current EXIM Policy export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) is free subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA).

(c) As regard export of foodgrains (wheat and rice) from Central Pool. Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-a-vis prescribed minimum buffer norms production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement of Public Distribution System other Welfare Schemes, open market prices etc., and decision for export is taken only if foodgrains stocks in the Central Pool are in excess of the prescribed buffer norms. The stock position of rice and wheat in the Central Pool continues to be above the prescribed buffer norms. No export of rice from the Central Pool has been allowed during the current year or the previous year.

Bringing Down the Mustard Oil prices

1903. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the failure of the Ministry to bring down the price of mustard oil, to the level that existed before dropsy deaths last year;

(b) whether the cost of production of mustard oil is almost similar to that in the last year, if so, the reasons for the Ministry not taking necessary steps to keep price at par with the cost production;

(c) whether this is allowing the profiteers and hoarders of mustard oil to loot the consumers; and

(d) if so, by when he would change the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) In 1998, the prices of mustard oil started rising from June-July, 1998 itself and continued their upward trend till October, 1998. From November, 1998 the prices of mustard oil have started declining. The average monthly wholesale price of mustard oil is given in the Statement (*See* below). The reason for the rise in prices of mustard oil compared to the previous year, was due to the shortfall of 20 lakh MT in mustard seed production compared to 1996-97. After the dropsy incidents in August, 1998, the sale of loose mustard oil was banned in Delhi and several other States which led to decrease in availability at the retail level along with higher price. Government made all efforts to bring the situation back to normal. Other soft oils like soyabean and sunflower oils were available at a cheaper price to the consumers and palmolein was also supplied to the States and Union Territories as per their demand for supply through the Public Distribution System. Against a

supply of 89,000 MT of palmolein through PDS in 1997-98, 1.8 lakh MT of edible oils has been made available for supply through PDS in 1998-99.

(b) to (d) The cost of production of mustard oil in second half of 1998 was about 70 per cent higher compared to 1997 due to significant fall in production of mustard seed. The average price of mustard seed during the period August to December, 1998 was Rs. 1700—2300 per quintal compared to the average seed price of Rs. 1100—1200 per quintal during the corresponding period in 1997.

Statement

Monthly Wholesale Price of Mustard Oil

Mustard Oil Month	Rs/quintal 1998	1999
January	3256	4426
February	3340	3915
March	3426	
April	3710	
May	3824	
June	4160	
July	4499	
August	4571	
September	4825	
October	5703	
November	5529	
December	5129	

चावल की "स्वर्ण-धान" किस्म का वर्गीकरण

1904. **श्री लक्खी राम अग्रवाल:** क्या **खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामलों** के मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या खाद्य मंत्रालय ने मध्य प्रदेश में उगाई जाने वाली चावल की किस्म "स्वर्ण धान" को अभी तक वर्गीकृत नहीं किया है जिसके कारण किसानों को पिछले काफी समय से हानि उठानी पड़ रही है; और

(ख) सरकार द्वारा इस मामले में कब तक निर्णय लिया जाएगा?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्य पाल सिंह यादव): (क) और (ख) चावल व वसूली और निर्गम मूल्य के निर्धारण के प्रयोजन से धान/चावल की किस्मों का वर्गीकरण किया जाता है। वर्गीकरण के प्रयोजन हेतु विभाग की केन्द्रीय अनाज विश्लेषण प्रयोगशाला राज्य सरकार और भारतीय खाद्य निगम से वाणिज्यिक महत्व की धान/चावल की किस्मों के अधिप्रमाणित नमूने एकत्रित करती है। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे वर्गीकरण के प्रयोजन हेतु वाणिज्यिक महत्व की धान/चावल की फिलहाल शुरू की गई/अवर्गीकृत धान, चावल की किस्मों के शुद्ध और प्रमाणित नमूने मुहैया कराए। इनमें छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में उगाई जा रही स्वर्ण धान भी शामिल है।

World Banks views on PDS

1905. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the World Bank study of the working of anti-poverty programmes in the country, the PDS has been the least efficient;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the basis of the findings of the World Bank relating to country's PDS system; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the reports in the media the World Bank Study of the working of anti-poverty programmes in the country shows that Public Distribution System (PDS) has been the least efficient.

The PDS, at it is operated at present, does not cater to the poor alone but also to the non-poor sections of the society. As such it is not possible to evaluate PDS only in terms of its benefit to the poor vis-a-vis the anti-poverty programmes.